

AS

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 97-239-C - ORDER NO. 97-976
NOVEMBER 17, 1997

IN RE: Proceeding to Establish Guidelines) ORDER
for an Interstate Universal Service)
Fund.)
)
)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Motion to Compel Responses to Interrogatories and Requests for Production filed by AT&T Communications of the Southern States, Inc. (AT&T) against GTE South, Inc.

On October 21, 1997, AT&T served on GTE South Incorporated (GTE) and filed with this Commission a request for discovery in accordance with Commission Rule R.103-851. The purpose of the discovery request, which consisted of fourteen interrogatories, was to obtain information in connection with the upcoming hearing in this Docket. On October 31, 1997, AT&T received a copy of GTE's response to the request. The responses stated mostly that the questions propounded were irrelevant and/or oppressive and/or related to confidential, sensitive, proprietary information, and apparently provided little new information.

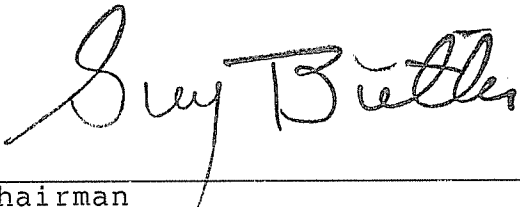
AT&T has now executed a protective agreement with GTE which should eliminate any concerns regarding confidential, sensitive,

or proprietary information. The interrogatories are directed to the discovery of the recent history of plant additions to the GTE network in South Carolina, the costs, useful lives, alternative uses, and the depreciation rates thereof, as well as the near-future anticipated plant additions to the GTE network in South Carolina with the costs, useful lives, alternative uses, and the depreciation rates thereof.


It would appear to us that such information is certainly relevant to our determinations in this Docket. Therefore, we grant the Motion to Compel. GTE shall provide full and complete responses to the above-referenced requests as soon as possible in relation to the upcoming hearing.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Deputy Executive Director

(SEAL)